

MONEY SAVING TIPS: AIRPORT DINING

For individuals and families looking to make holiday budgets go further this summer cutting costs immediately before take off can often be a missed opportunity.

A survey of nearly 400 people suggested that two thirds of travellers have changed their spending habits at the airport in the past 5 years. 41% admitted to spending more on food and drink at the airport pre-flight and one in five say they are more likely to bring their own food and drink to the airport.

How to save:

The Mystery Dining Company (www.mysterydining.com) offers in excess of 600 free meals each year at airports around the world for qualified mystery dining assessors. (assignments are available weekly at Heathrow and Stansted in the UK). Travellers can receive between £12 (for sandwich and deli type purchases) and £45 (for a 2 course meal and glass of wine for 2 people) reimbursement at a range of airport food and drink outlets. It can also be a useful way to pass the time at the airports (and help to avoid additional purchases in the shops) as reports must be completed within 24 hours after a visit.

Registered assessors may also want to take advantage of free meal opportunities abroad too as The Mystery Dining Company has assignments in over 17 different countries.

Other interesting facts:

The recent survey, undertaken by The Mystery Dining Company, also revealed that 70% of people are very conscious of expenditure on food and drink while they are on holiday.

However, when asked the main reason for choosing one place to eat over another when travelling only 12% say their decision is based solely on price. The type of cuisine was the most popular reason for choosing where to eat (at 35%), impulse decisions, location and reputation were other popular reasons.

Three out of 10 people also say they now travel with a laptop or netbook most or all of the time, while nearly half of respondents said that they travelled with one at certain times, usually depending on what type of travel they were doing.

ENDS

Editor's Notes:

How Mystery Dining works

Mystery assessors receive food, in the form of reimbursed meals, for thought.

An assessor must complete a report (which takes between 20 and 60 minutes depending on the assignment) and send that, along with a copy of the restaurant receipt, to The Mystery Dining Company within 24 hours of a visit. The report is then verified and once any additional questions are answered the cost of the meal is reimbursed. Assessors must be available to contact via telephone the day after a mystery dine.

How to apply to become a mystery assessor

To become an assessor there are a couple of key criteria. A passion for food, eating out and good customer service is a must, as is good attention to detail, a high standard of written English and access to the internet.

The Mystery Dining Company has assessors between the ages of 18 – 78.

About The Mystery Dining Company

The Mystery Dining Company was established in 2003. It coordinates around 1000 mystery visits for more than 50 different hospitality businesses (including restaurants, cafes, pubs, hotels, takeaway outlets and leisure venues) in 17 countries every month. It has a network of more than 2,500 mystery diners who regularly eat out assessing and reporting on the standard of customer service. Mystery Diners are reimbursed for the cost of their food and drink purchases (the maximum value for each assignment differs) once a report is verified. For more information visit www.mysterydining.com.